

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 /090 W
-----060442 261052Z /15

P R 260845Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 408
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMCONSUL MEDAN
AEMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 7315
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 10077

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, ID
SUBJECT: JULY 26 RELEASE OF POLITICAL DETAINEES

1. THE GOI TODAY RELEASED 3921 CATEGORY B POLITICAL DETAINEES, BRINGING THE TOTAL RELEASED IN 1978 TO 4186 (265 WERE RELEASED IN WEST JAVA IN MAY). ACCORDING TO KOPKAMTIB CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL YOGA SUGOMO, THERE ARE NOW 15,605 DETAINEES LEFT IN ALL CATEGORIES, WITH 2000 SCHEDULED FOR RELEASE IN OCTOBER AND 4000 (MOSTLY FROM BURU ISLAND) IN DECEMBER.

2. THE RELEASE WAS OFFICIALLY MARKED BY A CEREMONY IN BANDUNG TO WHICH DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS WERE INVITED. SOME 715 DETAINEES FROM WEST JAVA WERE RELEASED THERE. TOTALS FROM OTHER AREAS WERE ANNOUNCED AS: ACEH 4, WEST SUMATRA AND RIAU 106, NORTH SUMATRA 148, WEST KALIMANTAN 44, SOUTHERN SUMATRA 44, JAKARTA 231, CENTRAL JAVA 464, EAST JAVA
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954, NUSA TENGGARA 56, EAST KALIMANTAN 9, SOUTH AND CENTRAL KALIMANTAN 26, NORTH AND CENTRAL SULAWESI 118, SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST SULAWESI 22, MALUKU 11, NIRBAYA PRISON (JAKARTA) 114, NUSAKAMBANGAN PRISON (CENTRAL JAVA) 748, AND PLANTUNGAN WOMEN'S PRISON (CENTRAL JAVA) 117. (THESE ADD UP TO 3931, BUT FIGURE OF 3921 IS PRESUMED CORRECT.)

3. CHARGE ATTENDED BANDUNG CEREMONY WHICH FOLLOWED
FORMAT OF MEDAN AND BANDUNG RELEASES LAST YEAR: READING
OF RELEASE ORDER, TAKING OF OATH OF FIDELITY, AND SHORT
ADDRESS BY KODAM COMMANDER. AFTERWARDS, GENERAL YOGA
MET INFORMALLY WITH BANDUNG PRESS REPRESENTATIVES.
SOME TEN EMBASSIES WERE REPRESENTED BUT NO AMBASSADORS
WERE PRESENT SINCE INVITATIONS, ISSUED ONLY HOURS BE-
FORE THE CEREMONY, WERE NOT ADDRESSED SPECIFICALLY TO
THEM AND THEY HAD RECEIVED PERSONAL INVITATIONS TO
OPENING OF TEACHERS' CONVENTION BY PRESIDENT IN JAKARTA
AT SAME HOUR. (CHARGE "CLEARED" HIS ABSENCE FROM LATTER
WITH DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL.) DIPLOMATIC CORPS REPRESENTA-
TIVES AND PRESS WERE PERMITTED TO MINGLE FREELY AND TALK
PRIVATELY WITH RELEASEES. SOME 250 WERE EX-MILITARY,
WHO APPARENTLY WERE TO RETURN TO THEIR UNITS FOR DIS-
CHARGE AND SOME OF WHOM TOLD CHARGE THEY HOPED TO
REMAIN IN ARMY. OTHER RELEASEES TO WHOM CHARGE TALKED RANGED
FROM COMMON LABORERS (MEMBERS OF COMMUNIST UNIONS), WHO PLANNED
TO TAKE PUBLIC BUSES TO THEIR VILLAGES, TO AN EX-BUSINESSMAN
MET BY CAR AND CHAUFFEUR. ALL CLAIMED TO BE IN GOOD HEALTH
AND, WITH EXCEPTION OF ONE YOUNG LABORER WHO HAD LOST TOUCH
WITH FAMILY, SEEMED CONFIDENT OF FINDING PLACE IN SOCIETY.
ALTHOUGH RELEASEES, LIKE DIPLOMATS, WERE GIVEN LITTLE ADVANCE
NOTICE OF CEREMONY AND FAMILIES FROM OUTLYING TOWNS CONSEQUENTLY
DID NOT HAVE TIME TO ATTEND, HALL AND GROUNDS WERE CROWDED WITH
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FAMILIES OF BANDUNG RELEASEES.

4. DATT WAS UNEXPECTEDLY INVITED ATTEND RELEASE CEREMONY DURING
VISIT TO PONTIANAK, WEST KALIMANTAN. HIS REPORT BEING SENT
SEPARATELY.

5. COMMENT: INDONESIAN SECURITY AUTHORITIES ARE CLEARLY BE-
COMING MORE RELAXED OVER RELEASE CEREMONIES. SOME SIGNS OF
STATE MANAGEMENT NOTED IN EARLIER CEREMONIES WERE MISSING AND
THERE WERE NO PROTOCOL RESTRICTIONS ON DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTA-
TIVES WHO WERE PERMITTED, INDEED INVITED, TO LOSE THEMSELVES
IN BIG CROWD OF RELEASEES AND FAMILIES.
GARDNER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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